

My thoughts and prayers are with Nate, their children Perry, Kira, and Ross, and her granddaughter Esther. Although their beloved Trish was taken well before her time, may they find peace in knowing she is peacefully at rest in the earth she faithfully tended. Now her power for betterment of life on earth assumes new dimension and one that is eternal. May God provide her angelic spirit soft clouds and rising suns so her goodness showers upon humankind in unending waves.

HONORING PUBLIC SERVANT
DAVID HIGGERSON

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David P. Higgeson on his retirement from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Laredo Field Office.

As Director of Field Operations (DFO) at the Laredo office, Director Higgeson was responsible for enforcement activities at eight international Ports of Entry (POEs), extending from Brownsville to Del Rio, and the Machinery Center for Excellence and Expertise. The eight POEs include 21 vehicle crossings, eight airports, three rail crossings, and one seaport. These crossings are some of the nation's busiest, and Mr. Higgeson's organization safely processed nearly 59.4 million people, more than 21 million vehicles, over 3.5 million commercial trucks, and an excess of \$194 billion in international trade in Fiscal Year 2018. He also served in the Joint Task Force-West, which disrupts transnational criminal organizations from operating in South Texas.

Director Higgeson is a proven leader in the community who leads by example. In 2018, he was awarded the Secretary's Meritorious Service Silver Medal for his leadership and service to the Department of Homeland Security. He also earned the Commissioner's Strategic Problem Solving Award for the South Texas

Railroad Strategic Problem Solving Initiative, and Assistant Commissioner recognition for his outstanding contribution to the Land Border Directive Working Group.

Mr. Higgeson is a graduate of the St. John Military Academy and holds an Associate's Degree in Accounting. After honorably serving in the U.S. Army, he was Customs Inspector at the Panama Canal Zone and was then transferred to Laredo, Texas in 1978. He was also Port Director in Hidalgo-Pharr, Texas, and DFO in El Paso, Texas and Tucson, Arizona.

It has been an honor to work with Director Higgeson for the past seven years. I thank him for his service in keeping our borders safe, while also taking care of our officers on the front line. As we celebrate David P. Higgeson's retirement, I ask my colleagues to join his family, our community, and me in recognizing his legacy and wishing him a happy retirement.